

# Bosnia, Serbs, UN to form jt commission

SARAJEVO, Oct 9: Bosnian Serbs, the Muslim-led Bosnian government and the UN are to form a joint commission to inspect a demilitarized zone near Sarajevo after the killing there of 200 Bosnian Serbs, a UN officer said today.

"There is agreement to form a joint inspection commission for the DMZ," Major Koos Sol of the UN protection force (UNPROFOR) told Reuters today.

"We don't know exactly when they will go to work since there is still some discussion about the level (rank of officers) at which the commission will operate," he said.

The agreement appeared to defuse tension after a commando raid by government forces on Thursday in which 16 Serb soldiers and four female medics were killed.

The Serbs, promising to retaliate, said government forces had violated the zone on the Igman and Bjelasica mountains, demilitarised under an agreement signed in August last year.

AP adds: The International airlift that keeps Sarajevo alive resumed Sunday, bringing aid to a desperate city with only three days' supplies left.

In an effort to build up supplies ahead of winter and a possible Serb shutdown of the airport, 19 UN aid flights and two Red Cross planes were scheduled. Eleven of the aid planes from Ancona, Italy, and Split, Croatia, had touched down by noon, said Peter Kesler, a UN aid agency spokesman in Zagreb, Croatia.

The resumption of aid followed a sniper attack on trucks in central Sarajevo Saturday which killed one man and wounded 11, including five children.

Pools of blood stained pavement and two of the empty trucks, UN spokesman Maj. Herve Gourmenou said the fire came from Bosnian Serb positions around the Jewish cemetery.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia handed over a cheque of Tk 25 lakh to vice-chairman of the Hindu Kalyan Trust and State Minister for Forest and Environment Goyeshwar Chandra Roy at her office yesterday as grant for development of different temples and celebration of the Durga Puja, beginning today. Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman and State Minister for Establishment Md Aminul Haque were present. —PID photo

# PM likely to visit Maldives Nov 22-23

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to pay a visit to the Maldives November 22-23, official sources said yesterday. Begum Zia, the current Chairperson of the SAARC, is also likely to visit India and Pakistan before the end of this year, reports UNB.

# Villagers gouge out eyes of dacoit in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Oct 9: Angry villagers gouged out the eyes of a dacoit and broke the limbs of two of his accomplices in Patuakhali last night.

Police said, when a group of 10 to 12 dacoits raided the house of one Abul Kashem in Haji Khali village at about 1 am they were surrounded by the villagers who rushed on hearing the alarm raised by the inmates of the house.

In their bid to escape the dacoits fired shots which drew the attention of a police patrol. The villagers with the help of police caught three of them. They are Khalil, 35, Rafiq Mollah, 28, and Badal, 30.

The injured were admitted to the Patuakhali Sadar Hospital under police custody.

# Cargo handling in Ctg port resumes

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Oct 9: Loading and unloading of cargo at the Chittagong port jetties resumed at 8 pm today after a 24-hour work stoppage by the stevedores, port officials said.

Cargo handling resumed after a meeting attended by port officials, representatives of stevedores union, and officials of the labour directorate. Chittagong Port Authority chief Omar Hadi chaired the meeting.

The meeting, in a bid to resolve dispute constituted an 8-member committee headed by Imam Box, deputy traffic manager of Chittagong port. The committee will submit its report on October 12 with its recommendations to settle the issue.

# Azam to address Sylhet meet Oct 28

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Oct 9: Chief of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh Prof Golam Azam will address a public meeting in Sylhet town on October 28.

The district unit of the Jamaat will hold the meeting at the Government Alia Madrasah maidan here with Dr. Shafique Rahman in the chair. The local Jamaat had earlier arranged a public meeting in Sylhet on February 17 this year with Prof Azam as the chief guest, but it was later postponed.

# Zahir murder

From Page 1 Col 8 his Dhanmondi residence on April 8, 1993.

Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, an Awami League MP went into hiding despite an ad-interim bail granted to him by the District and Sessions Judge Court on May 5 last year.

The other accused in the case are Fazlur Rahman Tanmay, Hedayetullah Islam, Moshirur Rahman Towhid, Abdul Matin and Kawser.

Of the accused, Tanmay was caught red handed with a revolver near the house of Humayun Zahir.

# Durga Puja

From Page 1 Col 8 places or spots in the capital, while its number throughout the country will be between 10,000 and 12,000.

Mahaastami and Mahanavami will be celebrated on October 12 and 13 respectively. With the immersion of the images of Goddess Durga on the 'Dashami' the last day of the festival, the preparations for months for this annual festivity will come to an end.

# Dhaka: Gulf

From Page 1 Col 5 York, the foreign minister, besides addressing the 49th UNGA session, held bilateral talks with his counterparts of various countries.

He attended the annual co-ordination meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) at the UN headquarters.

Responding to a question, the foreign minister said that at the UN headquarters, he had a meeting with Indian Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee who was leading his country's delegation at the UNGA session. "No detailed discussions took place," he said.

Mostafiz also held talks with the US high officials on bilateral matters, and regional and international issues of common concern.

Referring to his meeting with the UN Secretary General, Mostafiz said Boutros Boutros-Ghali is expected to visit Bangladesh shortly.

# Plague deaths

From Page 1 Col 7 day.

Many other Indians realise their country can no longer ignore basic hygiene and sanitation, especially in shantytowns, where millions live without sewerage and water but with plenty of rats.

The pneumonic plague has killed 61 people, according to Indian officials, and the World Health Organisation say the epidemic will be over two weeks after the last death is reported.

# AD leader, 3 others hurt in Barisal accident

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Oct 9: Four persons, including an Awami League (AL) leader of Bakerganj thana, were injured seriously when their Pajero jeep hit a road side brick wall at Duarika ferry that this morning, 15 km from the divisional town.

The injured are the Awami League leader and businessman, Masud Reza, 38, his elder brother Syed Ali Reza, 45, one Nurul Islam, 38, and driver Alamgir 40.

Syed Ali Reza was flown to Dhaka by a flying club plane in an unconscious state.

# Three killed in road accidents

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 9: Three people were killed in separate accidents in two thanas of the district today, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Saidur Rahman, 20, a student of the Akbar Ali College and Kalu, 15, of Boramotrihar village in Ullapara thana.

# 'Thatcher's son made fortune from arms sale'

LONDON, Oct 9: Margaret Thatcher's son made a multi-million pound (dollar) fortune by getting commission on British arms sales to Saudi Arabia while she was prime minister, The Sunday Times reported, says AP.

The newspaper quoted from transcripts of tapes in which members of the Saudi royal family talk about Mark Thatcher's excellent connections with the British government during negotiations for a 20-billion pound (dollar 25 billion) deal. The two-stage agreement was signed in 1985 and 1988.

The newspaper said Mark Thatcher, 40, a former racing driver who now lives in Dallas, Texas, made 12 million pounds (dollar 15 million) out of the deal — one of the world's biggest arms sales.

"Although his actions over the Saudi deal are not illegal, they are likely to raise questions over how he was allowed so brazenly to profit from his mother's political position, and why she took no action to stop it," said the newspaper.

The newspaper said it got tapes of conversations about the deal from a Saudi diplomat at the United Nations, Mohammed Khleefi. He defected in May and was granted political asylum in the United States after leaking details of an alleged Saudi nuclear programme.

Mark Thatcher has long been accused in the British press of trading on his mother's fame and of being linked to arms dealing generally, including an attempt by a British company to sell Iraq a huge gun, the "super gun."

Margaret Thatcher, prime minister from 1979 to 1990, has always refused to discuss her son or answer questions in Parliament.

Britain's opposition Labour Party on Sunday demanded that Conservative Prime Minister John Major, who succeeded the now Lady Thatcher, should appoint a public inquiry.

# Diana-Hewitt

From Page 1 Col 7 He said Diana arrived in a chauffeur driven limousine about 10:30 pm and shortly afterward the back garden team reported seeing a man and woman kissing under a tree. The team said they were picking up the conversation and then reported that "the male and female were making love in the back garden of the house."

"I asked them to confirm the state of dress, and they said the female was wearing a long riding coat and not much else, while the male only had his top on. They were having a real steamy time."

Jones was quoted as saying the major who ordered the surveillance confiscated the video and conversation tapes and ordered secrecy.

He said in 1991 he helped mount what he assumed were plainclothes security agents mount a 24-hour watch on the house. He did not see Diana.

Author Anna Pasternak who colluded with Hewitt to write "Princess in Love," says Diana spent occasional weekends with Hewitt at the house where he lived with his mother in the southwest county of Devonshire.

The book revived speculation that Charles and Diana will now divorce, prompted widespread criticism of Hewitt as a "cad," and underlined the huge amounts of money to be made out of intimate tales about the royals.

Newspapers speculate that Hewitt stands to make up to 3 million pounds (4.8 million dollars) from his story.

The News of the World says he tried to sell the story in the summer and then backed out. The newspaper did not say how much it paid 41-year-old Jones, who left the army in May 1993, for his story.

# Doctor drowns

From Page 1 Col 5 posted at the Chandanaish thana health complex, was pulled out of the water after almost an hour by three shell-picking girls who happened to be in the vicinity. He was rushed to the Sadar Hospital, only a kilometre away, but doctors there pronounced him dead.

Dilcuba, 25, who obtained her masters degree in Chemistry from the Chittagong University this year, was still in a state of severe shock and unconscious even well after the namaz-e-janaza after Zohr prayers.

The couple got married on September 30 and came to Cox's Bazar on a honeymoon Friday last. They were staying at Hotel.

Shahabuddin, 35, hailed from Sholaghat village of Bheramara thana under Kushtia district.

The body of the doctor was taken to Chittagong by his relatives in the evening after autopsy. Shahabuddin's father Shujauddin Chowdhury, a railway officer martyred in 1971, had settled in Chittagong.

Each year, one or two tourists die during low tide in the Bay. Despite repeated requests from the local people to install a net around the beach as a security measure and appoint official lifeguards the concerned authorities are yet to take any action.

Locals familiar with the hazards to swimmers told this correspondent that most deaths occur when people wade too far out and are often pulled towards the sea by the ebb and they fail to find a foothold in the quicksand pits that dot the coastline.

# US, British forces

From Page 1 Col 5 watch on several hundred unarmed people who erected tents on the Iraqi side of the frontier, apparently to hold an anti-Kuwait rally.

Their numbers could increase to about 20,000, based on briefings from Iraqi liaison officers, said a spokesman for UNIKOM, the United Nations Iraq Kuwait Observer Mission. Many stateless Arabs left Kuwait during or soon after the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. Very few have been allowed back.

The border demilitarised zone, a strip 10 km wide on the Iraqi side and five km wide on the desert frontier, remained quiet.

"The number of armed patrols has increased and we are keeping our vigilance," the UNIKOM spokesman said.

It is a desolate area of scrub and semi-steppe in flat desert scarred by a tar-covered trench and earthen rampart constructed by Kuwait last year to keep out infiltrators.

The nearest Iraqi units are 20 km from the border, although the bulk of the forces are another 20 km further back.

AP adds: Israeli intelligence is closely following the latest Iraqi troop buildup, but officials and experts said they believe Saddam Hussein is unlikely to attack Israel as in the Gulf War.

Chief of Staff Lt Gen Ehud Barak briefed the Cabinet on the developments in Iraq and said Israelis did not need to take special protective measures. But ministers were not satisfied.

"We have learned that there is no logic to Saddam Hussein's steps," said Police Minister Moshe Shahal. He called on the army to prepare a more thorough report on the contingencies.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who in 1991 supported Saddam, said he did not believe the crisis would develop into another military confrontation and Iraq was only maneuvering to get UN-imposed sanctions lifted, Israel radio said.

Military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there were no signs of an Iraqi threat on Israel.

# Jamaat

From Page 1 Col 4 which ended at Shyamoli in the city. Party central leaders Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mnjahid, Mohammad Abdus Sobhan MP, Sheikh Ansar Ali MP, ATM Azharul Islam and Advocate Jasimuddin Sarkar led the march.

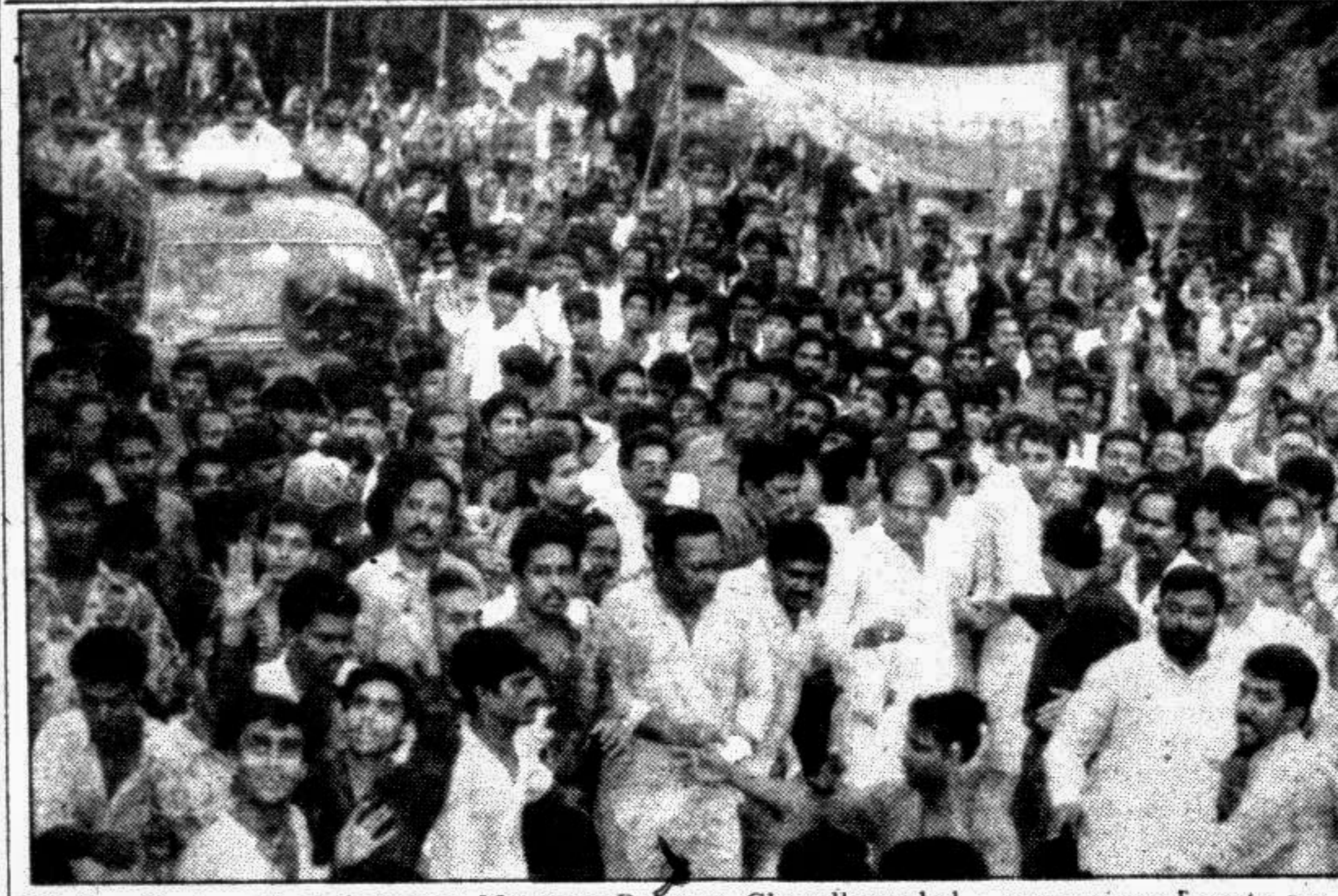
The marchers, carrying banners, placards and festoons chanted various anti-government slogans.

Addressing a brief rally at Shyamoli, Abbas Ali Khan said the government had lost its moral right to stay in power for its widespread rigging in the elections, terrorism and corruption.

Islam, democracy as well as the independence are not safe under the rule of the BNP, he said urging the government to accept the demands to avert further agitation.

"Elections under the ruling BNP can never be free and fair as it breached all of its electoral pledges," Khan told the rally.

Presided over by Jamaat City Ameer ATM Azharul Islam, the rally was also addressed by Samsur Rahman, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, Abdus Sobhan MP, Abdul Kader Mollah and Sheikh Ansar, Ali MP.



Jatiya Party acting chairman Mezanur Rahman Chowdhury led a procession of party activists in the city yesterday. —Star photo

# Ershad's role

From Page 1 Col 2 of the whole nation," he said. He also urged the government "to find a peaceful solution to end the crisis."

Urging the government to create a favourable atmosphere for the dialogue, Mizan Chowdhury said the ruling party leaders should control their "tongue" if they are sincere about the dialogue.

Earlier hundreds of people gathered at the Mukti Sarani to join the march, a programme of three major opposition parties to drum up support for their demand for a caretaker government.

JP leaders Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury MP, Moudud Ahmed MP, Kazi Zafar Ahmed MP, Khaledur Rahman Titu, Sardar Amzad Hossain MP, Monirul Huq Chowdhury MP and Mahabubul Huq Dolan led the march.

Mizan Chowdhury and ailing Kazi Zafar Ahmed were on board an open jeep waving the crowd while Moudud along with other leaders walked along with workers and supporters. The marchers took three hours to reach the destination.

# Kibria

From Page 1 Col 4 Stephen.

Sir Ninian, originally expected to arrive tomorrow, is now not due in the city until October 13.

Kibria, who had served the government of Ziaur Rahman as Foreign Secretary from September 1978 to April 1981, was the Executive Director of the Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) between 1987 and 1992. He joined the Awami League in September 1992.

# Hasina leads padajatra

From Page 1 Col 3 mand for a caretaker government.

The JP and the Jamaat also organised padajatra separately on the day.

Traffic movement was disrupted along the routes of the marches by the AL, the JP (from the Mukti Sarani to Jatrabari) and the Jamaat (from Aminibazar to Shyamoli) for several hours during the three identical but separate padajatras towards the capital.

On her way, Hasina stopped at Uttara, Azampur, Khikhet, Kuril, Banani Chairmanbari and some other places to address gatherings. She concluded her long march by addressing a huge public rally at the Mahakhali rail-crossing.

Senior AL leaders including Abdus Samad Azad, Zohra Tajuddin, Abdul Mannan, Zillur Rahman, Sajeda Choudhury, Dr Alauddin, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofael Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, Dhaka mayor Mohammad Hanif and Mohammad Nasim joined the march.

Addressing the rally at Mahakhali, the Opposition leader, called the BNP government "corrupt vote thief, inefficient and terrorist," and said "Free and fair elections under this government cannot be expected."

The government of Begum Khaleda Zia will be compelled to accept the demand for elections under a caretaker administration, she said.

"If elections under this government is allowed then the people won't be able to vote freely and their lives will be in danger," Hasina commented while alleging massive riggings in polls held under the BNP government and killings and

# The Midnight File

## Rockets kill 17 in Kabul

ISLAMABAD, Oct 9: At least 17 people were killed when dozens of rockets crashed into the Afghan capital Kabul today, radio Kabul reported. The broadcast monitored here blamed rival leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami faction for the barrage, saying that 62 rockets were counted in the city's residential district, reports AFP.

## Iran blasts EU

NICOSIA (Cyprus), Oct 9: Iran has blasted the European Union for inviting British novelist Salman Rushdie, sentenced to death by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini for allegedly blaspheming Islam, to meet with three of its foreign ministers. The Iranian ambassador to Bonn, Hoseyn Musavian, lodged a "vigorous protest" Friday with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, whose nation holds the rotating EU presidency, the Islamic Republic News Agency said, reports AP.

## Kamal demands gruel kitchens for drought victims

Gano Forum leader Dr Kamal Hossain has urged the government to open gruel kitchens in the drought-hit northern districts to feed the distressed people in the affected areas, reports UNB.

Addressing a public meeting at Kazirhat in Nilphamari district yesterday, Dr Kamal also put forward a set of suggestions to recoup the crop losses and alleviate the people's suffering.

These included increasing the number of VGD cards for distressed mothers, disbursement of agricultural loans on easy terms and adequate supply of seeds and pesticides, said a press release.

Dr Kamal reiterated the Forum's demand for constituting district governments to enable them to independently face natural calamities, including floods and droughts.

About the Opposition's current boycott of parliament, he said such continued boycott cannot be allowed where the people are the source of power.

The Gano Forum leader urged the people not to vote for dishonest and corrupt people as well as those with black money and illegal arms. "Teach them a lesson by rejecting those who want to buy votes," he added.

Presided over by Ismail Uddin Basunia, the meeting was also addressed by Mattur Rahman, Shamsuddoha MP, Dr Abdul Hakim and Sagor Anwar.

## Corruption case against ex-MD of Khulna newsprint mills

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Oct 9: The district Anti-Corruption Bureau here has filed a case with Khalishpur thana against former Managing Director of the Khulna Newsprint Mills, Abdul Latif, on charge of misappropriation of over Tk five lakh.

Inspector Mohidul Islam of the bureau in his FIR stated that the former MD had defalcated a sum of Tk 5,42,111 by means of forged vouchers of expenditure against different heads.

He embezzled the amount during his tenure from 1985 to 1990, the FIR further stated.

## 'Maintain law & order in Rohingya refugee camps'

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, Oct 9: The persons-in-charge of the Rohingya refugee camps were asked today to maintain law and order in the camps and keep the movement of the refugees under control.

The instructions were given to the chiefs of 18 refugee camps at a meeting here presided over by the Divisional Commissioner.

## Power Cell

From Page 1 Col 7 public and the private sectors involved in the generation and distribution of electricity.

After the setting up of the Power Cell, an inter-ministerial steering committee will also be constituted for overall supervision of the reform activities. The Secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources will act as convener of the committee.

The major proposals contained in the report on power sector reforms include organisational restructuring of the Power Development Board (PDB), the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) and the Rural Electrification Board (REB), clearly identifying their areas of operation.

Necessary steps to attract private investment in the power sector have also been recommended in the report while handing over of certain functions of both the PDB and the DESA to private firms on contract basis was also suggested.

## Daily Star staff mugged

By Staff Correspondent A staff of The Daily Star, Rafeya Mufti, was robbed of her gold-ornaments yesterday in the city's Khilgaon area. She was on her way to office, at Dhanmondi.

Rafeya, a senior administrative assistant of the newspaper alleged that she was waylaid on Shaheed Baki Road by three muggers who snatched her gold bangles and a ring on gun point at around 9:30 in the morning.

She said, three muggers, aged between 18 and 22, fled the scene by their motor bike.

## Banks

From Page 1 Col 7 more than 36 months, a 'doubtful loan' while any loan unsettled beyond 60 months is treated as a bad debt.

On the other hand, as per the international practice, any debt overdue beyond three months is considered a sub-standard loan, one exceeding six months is considered doubtful while all outstanding amounts beyond 12 months automatically become bad debts.

The banks are supposed to keep 10 per cent of the sub-standard loans, 50 per cent of the doubtful loans and 100 per cent of the bad debts in its reserve by cutting the amount from their profits as per the provisioning system. The system was introduced in 1990 under the BCD Circular 34 to keep the financial health of the banks good.

According to banking sources, the bad loans in the private banks are mostly influenced by insider lending while those in the NCBs were due to corrupt bank officials, inefficient monitoring systems and bad lending due to lack of proper evaluation.

An official of the Bangladesh Bank, talking to The Daily Star yesterday, however, said the government can do very little other than strengthen the audit and inspection system for reducing insider lending.

He said, for reducing bad lending, the lending risk analysis (LRA) system has been introduced which would enable the banks to improve their lending performance.

He further said that the legal system would also have to be strengthened for improving the loan recovery performance of the banks.

The BB official said, the government is considering introducing the international loan classification system in Bangladesh. In that case radical changes would take place in the country's banking sector which may reveal some startling truths about the actual state of health of the banks, he observed.

## Gen Cedras

From Page 1 Col 4 tional government, is pressuring Cedras and Biambly not only to quit but to leave the country.

They have run Haiti since the 1991 overthrow of the democratically elected Aristide, who has pledged to return here Saturday.

The Haitian sources said Cedras will resign Monday under the agreement worked out in Washington.

Another American source here said he expected "a little ceremony" to mark the turnover.

Earlier Saturday, US Defence Secretary William Perry met with Cedras and later declared "significant progress" in restoring elected rule.

Perry's meeting with Cedras ended an eight-hour visit, his second in two weeks. Cedras' arrival at the airport prompted rumors and excitement among dozens of Haitians there, who believed he was about to go into exile.

When asked when Cedras was leaving, Perry told reporters — just before meeting the general — "We hope it will be very soon."

The United States has been pressuring Cedras not only to step down from power but to leave Haiti before the scheduled return of Aristide, whom Cedras overthrew in a coup three years ago.